

Message Text

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ORIGIN ERDA-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 132708

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, UR, TECH, TGEN, ENRG

SUBJECT: PROPOSED FISSION-FUSION COOPERATION BETWEEN
EPRI AND KURCHATOV

REF: (1) STATE 66008, (2) MOSCOW 4082

1. IN VIEW OF THE PRESIDENT'S RECENT STATEMENTS ON
NUCLEAR POLICY, ERDA HAS REVISED ITS RESPONSE TO CHAIRMAN
PETROSYANTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROGRAM OF COOPERATION
IN FISSION-FUSION BETWEEN EPRI AND KURCHATOV (SEE REF 1).
PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING REVISED LETTER TO CHAIRMAN PETROSYANTS
FROM ERDA ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR SIEVERING. THE ORIGINAL
WILL BE AIR POUCHED TO EMBASSY FOR DELIVERY TO PETROSYANTS.
(A COPY OF THIS LETTER HAS BEEN SENT TO EPRI PRESIDENT
CHAUNCEY STARR).

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JUNE 3, 1977

DR. A. M. PETROSYANTS, CHAIRMAN
USSR STATE COMMITTEE ON UTILIZATION OF ATOMIC ENERGY
STAROMONETNII PER 26
MOSCOW, USSR

DEAR CHAIRMAN PETROSYANTS:

AS YOU RECALL FROM OUR DISCUSSIONS DURING THE RECENTLY HELD SALZBURG CONFERENCE, MR. ROBERT FRI IS NOW SERVING AS ACTING ADMINISTRATOR AND HE HAS REQUESTED THAT I REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF JANUARY 18, 1977.

I WOULD LIKE TO CONFIRM TO YOU THAT ERDA HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED CONTRACT CONCERNING COOPERATION IN FISSION-FUSION HYBRIDS BETWEEN THE ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (EPRI) AND THE KURCHATOV ATOMIC ENERGY INSTITUTE. I BELIEVE THAT I SHOULD AGAIN STRESS, HOWEVER, THAT ERDA HAS NO CONCRETE PLANS FOR EXPERIMENTAL WORK IN FISSION-FUSION HYBRIDS AND IT IS UNLIKELY THAT WE WILL BE INITIATING SUCH WORK IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I AM WRITING TO DR. STARR ADVISING HIM OF THE ABOVE. I WILL ALSO NOTE IN THE LETTER THAT SOME ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSED COOPERATION MAY BE SUBJECT TO US GOVERNMENT APPROVAL BASED ON OUR REGULATIONS AND NUCLEAR POLICIES IN FORCE AT THE TIME OF THE CARRYING OUT THE COOPERATION. I WILL FURTHER INFORM DR. STARR THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO GIVE AN ADVANCE ASSURANCE OF ANY REQUIRED APPROVALS SINCE WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF FORMULATING PROCEDURES TO IMPLEMENT THE PRESIDENT'S RECENT ANNOUNCED NUCLEAR POLICY AND SINCE THE DETAILS OF THE EPRI-KURCHATOV COOPERATION ARE NOT CLEARLY KNOWN AT THIS TIME.

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I ENJOYED SEEING YOU IN SALZBURG AND DISCUSSING MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. I WILL BE WRITING TO YOU SHORTLY CONCERNING THE SCHEDULING OF THE FIFTH JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING ON ATOMIC ENERGY. IN THE MEANTIME, I WOULD WELCOME YOUR SUGGESTIONS.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY CONTINUED BEST WISHES.

SINCERELY,

NELSON F. SIEVERING, JR.
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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